

8 April 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Staff Study on "Authentication of Facts"

1. The Office of Operations concurs in the ideas set forth in the subject memorandum, although we do not feel we are in a position to comment upon the method of production of finished intelligence or the effectiveness of the end product.

2. We especially approve the interest shown in the identification and authentication of facts. In the past we believe that too little effort has been made to identify and separate fact, probability, and surmise. Such an orderly classification of available information would materially aid the producer of finished intelligence in arriving at more precise and authentic conclusions. It would also be of the greatest possible assistance to the collector of intelligence information.

3. The collector of intelligence information is, by and large, the servant of both the researcher and producer of finished intelligence. The scope of the collector is often limited by personnel, funds, and opportunity. The scope of the requirements levied upon the collector by the researcher and producer is almost invariably unlimited. If facts were identified and authenticated the gaps in our knowledge would become more apparent and as a consequence it would become increasingly possible to refine requirements to specific targets. If specific requirements and priorities could be established the effort of the collecting agencies would gradually be directed to the most beneficial channels.

4. The collecting agencies cannot advise the researcher and producer of finished intelligence as to the information that they require. They can advise as to their collection potential and the best method of meeting requirements levied upon them. The collection potential, however, will too often be misdirected unless those who guide the collection effort are able to identify the gaps in their knowledge and provide the collector with clear cut specific requirements.

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